No. 170 Bucharest, November 2, 1936.

Subject: Rumors Regarding Adoption of "Neutrality" Policy by Little Entente States.

771.00/1451

771.00 The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Following the stir created by King Leopold's address to his Council of Ministers on October 14th last, wherein he consecrated future Belgian foreign policy to a form of neutrality reminiscent of the old pre-war system, there sprang up a crop of rumors regarding the possible adoption of a similar policy by the States of the Little Entente which have drawn, I have the honor to report, nothing but cries of denial from the Rumanian press.

At the time when denials of "neutrality" leanings

were

were issued in Belgrade and Prague, Rumanian Prime Minister Tatarescu was in Belgrade and no official notice of the rumors was taken here. Practically the only proponent of a new orientation of Rumanian policy in the direction of neutrality status is George Bratianu, leader of the dissident branch of the National Liberal Party, who claims that in this regard his views are shared by Vaida Voevod, head of the Frontul Romanesc. According to the DIMINEATA (Bucharest, October 29 and 30), Bratianu, who is reported to have stated to the Geneva Press Service that "in the conflagration that is to come Rumania must remain neutral", has been expounding his ideas in his own newspaper MISCARIA, but as reproduced they sound less like "neutrality" than a glorified entente system embracing all "satisfied" countries, from the Adriatic and the Black Seas to the Baltic, and do not deserve to be confused with the Belgian conception.

Enclosed herewith is a translation of a few extracts appearing in Bucharest newspapers which are believed to typify Rumanian opinion regarding the "neutrality" idea as far as this country or the Little Entente is concerned. 1/

Respectfully yours,

Leland Harrison.

Enclosure:
1- As stated.

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CKH:MS.

A true copy of the signed original

Copies to Belgrade and Prague.

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 773
dated November 2, 1936 from the
American Legation, Bucharest.

In Translation.

EXTRACTS FROM BUCHAREST PRESS
REGARDING RUMORED ADOPTION OF NEUTRALITY
BY LITTLE ENTENTE STATES

ADEVERUL (independent, democratic) No. 16183,
October 25, 1936.

Using the Belgian King's recent speech as a pretext, dangerous and unscrupulous propaganda is being spread with a view to creating in different states, especially in the States of the Little Entente, a current in favor of neutrality, which would lead to a revision of their present policies and to the dissolution of the alliances on which the Little Entente is based.

As in the action against the Franco-Soviet Pact, the propaganda started in the countries of the Little Entente in favor of a policy of neutrality----we are not considering here whether it would be at all possible----has only one aim: that of isolating France, of separating her from that system of alliances which assures security to all and peace on the continent.

To add coal to the fire of this propaganda, it is pointed out that the leaders of these countries desire and have even agreed to such a policy, and one day it is said that Czechoslovakia, another day that Yugoslavia, and another day that Rumania is ready to change its present policy.

Such rumors have been categorically denied in a communiqué of the official Government organ at Belgrade, where Mr. Tatarescu has spent a few days.

While this denial was made at Belgrade, Mr. Krofta at Prague, before the two parliamentary Commissions for Foreign Affairs, made the position of Czechoslovakia clear, and this position corresponds to the denial made at Belgrade.

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No other attitude is possible, as the most elementary and superficial judgment should reveal that the slightest deviation from the traditional policy of the Little Entente would lead to the gravest dangers.

One thing must not be forgotten. The isolation of France, which is being sought through this interested propaganda, would signify the immediate isolation of the States of the Little Entente and Rumania would find herself surrounded by enemies and those indifferent to her fate.

Rumania is therefore not even thinking of doing

such

such a thing and she continues to remain closely bound to her allies, as will be brilliantly pointed out at the time of the King's visit to Prague.

LE MOMENT (independent, in French), October 26, 1936.

The declarations made to the Press simultaneously by Mr. Milan Hodza, President of the Czechoslovak Council, and by Mr. Stoyadinovitch, President of the Yugoslav Council, leave no doubts.

"The situation of the States of the Little Entente can in no way be compared with that of Belgium", said Mr. Stoyadinovitch.

"It would not be possible to follow the example of Belgium", said Mr. Hodza.

PREZENTUL (National Peasant economic organ), October 29, 1936.

When the press of the Little Entente, following the speech of Mr. Hodza before the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Chamber, declared that the situation of the three states is different from that of Belgium and that there could be no reason for a similar attitude in Central and Eastern Europe, it confirmed the permanent character of the system of relations on which the foreign policy of the tripartite entente is based.

DIMINEATA (independent, democratic), November 2, 1936.

All this activity of Germany in detriment to the League's authority forced Belgium to declare partial neutrality. (We believe even that the disturbances in France of a somewhat communist character during the last Government were also a result of German influence.)

Germany, encouraged by the attitude of Italy, who, in the interest of her action in Africa, had opposed the views of the League of Nations, and encouraged also by the hesitation of England, spread her propaganda in favor of neutrality in the smaller countries, especially in those countries where German people reside in larger numbers, or where there are Germanophile political parties. Germany's object is to disrupt the League and replace it with a pact of the greater powers, excluding Russia.

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This policy has not succeeded up to the present except, only formally and partially, in Belgium. Poland reconsidered her decision of neutrality.

There is neutrality propaganda also within the Little Entente, but neutrality for this group is an impossibility, as has been clearly shown in the conversations at Belgrade, Bratislava, Bucharest and now at Prague.

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Central File: Decimal File 770.00, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Balkan States And The World, November 2, 1936. 2 Nov. 1936. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111393442%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-

GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.